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Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, April 30, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Lone Star concert slated for Sept. 12

Aberdeen Proving Ground Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting country western band Lone Star, with special guest Trace Adkins at this year's summer concert, Sept. 12.

In conjunction with Armed Forces Day, May 17, concert tickets will be sold at a one-day only special sale price of \$15 at Ripken Stadium and at the Truckload Sale in front of the Commissary.

Tickets go on sale May 19 at \$20 per person in advance, and \$25 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased from the Hoyle Fitness Center, MWR Registration in building 3326, Ticketmaster, or at the MWR Web site www.apg.mwr.com.

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, MWR marketing director, 410-278-4497.

OSJA sponsors annual Law Day Luncheon

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will sponsor the annual APG Law Day Luncheon, May 1, 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland.

Cost of the luncheon is \$12 per person, and is payable by check to Susan G. Grendahl, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 310, Wing 2, APG, MD 21005-5055. Seating is limited. R.S.V.P. by April 25, no exceptions.

Ride Your Bike To Work Day

Harford County will sponsor the first Ride Your Bike to Work Day Rally from 7 to 9 a.m. at 220 South Main Street, Bel Air, on May 2. The goals of this event are to increase the awareness of the health benefits of cycling, to reduce traffic congestion and improve the environ-

Every civilian employee and soldier is encouraged to attend.

A bicycle rodeo will also be held for younger riders from 10 a.m. to 2

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Army News

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The beginning of the end

Disposal facility starts destruction of stockpile

Karen Drewen Special Contributor

The process of destroying the bulk mustard agent stockpile at Aberdeen Proving Ground began April 23 under the accelerated program implemented by the Army following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We are safely accelerating the destruction of the mustard agent stockpile by more than two years," said Kevin J. Flamm, the Army's project manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches. "I'm proud of this team and what it is doing for our community and our country."

Destruction had been scheduled for completion by the year 2006, but security concerns after the terrorist attacks led to "Speedy Neut," a project that reordered the sequence and design of the original neutralization process.

Now, the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, or ABCDF, is removing the greater risk by destroying the mustard agent first. Later, after all of the agent has been destroyed, the empty steel containers will be decontaminated and cut in two for recycling off-site.

"This plan was made possible because of the dedicated team already in place working on the original destruction facility," said Joseph Lovrich, ABCDF site manager. "The team reworked the existing plans to find a solution that would dispose of the agent sooner, without compromising safety or security.

"We put a great deal of time into training and preparation, and have been working in concert with federal and state regulators and the community," he said, "so that a project of this magnitude would meet all state, federal and military requirements."

The project includes a diverse team of government personnel, including the Army Corps of Engineers, and contractors. Bechtel Aberdeen, the contractor responsible for the project, heads a team of more than 400 people to destroy the aging mustard stockpile.

See STOCKPILE, page 5



John Ford of Abingdon, a ton container specialist, demonstrates how the containers that store mustard agent will be drained at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, as assistant ton container operator Wayne Stratemeyer of Essex, looks on. Neutralization operations at the facility began Wednesday, and will continue for six months.

Watch card

Do observe and report:

- Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitation tations, or operational infor-
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around the installation.
- Unusual phone calls, messages, or e-mails.
- Unusual contacts on or
- Unusual aerial activity near or around installation.
- Any possible compromise of sensitive information.

Do not:

- · Discuss any aspect of operations military planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss force protection measures, capabilities, or

 Disclose any information related to unit deployments. Report any suspicious activity immediately to DOD Police:

Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222 Edgewood Area 410-436-2222 Off post in Maryland, call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477) The call may save lives.

Ordnance Week activities announced

E.C. Starnes

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will host activities during the second week in May to observe the 191st anniversary of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

On May 8, the Ordnance Corps Association will host its annual golf tournament at The Wetlands Golf Course. The event will feature a four-person, best ball, scramble that wiil begin at 7:30 a.m. For more information, check the association's website at http://www.usaoca.org/golf.html.

Later that evening, the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame will induct several new members into its ranks during a ceremony at the Ordnance Museum. Selected for induction are retirees Lt. Gen. Henry S. Aurand Sr., Lt. Gen. James M. Link, Maj. Gen. Robert Shadley, Maj. Gen. Jere Sharp, Brig. Gen. Thomas R. Dickinson, Brig. Gen. Norman F. Ramsey, Col. Robert A. Hooper, Col. Melvin M. Johnson Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert J. Wurm, Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Cutbirth, and Dr. Joseph C. Moquin.

The Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame was established in 1969. Individuals are chosen for induction solely on their significant contributions to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

The Ordnance Corps 191st Anniversary Review will be conducted on May 9 at 3 p.m. on Fanshaw Field. Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, will be the Reviewing Officer.

See ORDNANCE, page 5

OCS Board announced

Deborah Craten Dawson

SBCCOM Adjutant

On June 5, the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

Along with the United States Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate source of commissioned officers for the Army.

Recently the Army has increased the number of soldiers who may attend Officer Candidate School.

Candidates apply through local boards - Fort Meade for Aberdeen Proving Ground soldiers - and those selected begin a rigorous, 14-week course of instruction at Fort Benning, Ga.

APG soldiers who wish to become commissioned officers should prepare their applications early. The key prerequisites for eligibility are:

Be a citizen of the United

- Have a GT score of 110 or
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test score 180.
- Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test with a minimum score of 850 or American College Test with a minimum score of 19. -
- Have at least 90 semester hours of college study
- Achieve a score of 80 or School remains an important higher on the English Comprehension Level Test; if primary language is not English.

• Be at least 18 years old and less than 30 (can waiver age up to 35). Have a complete physical exam six months prior to date of application.

Completed packets must be submitted to the SBCCOM Military Personnel Office not later than May 1. Each application should consist of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet.

Additional information may be found in Army Regulation

See OCS, page 5

Spring colors dominate MWR Fashion Show

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson APG News

Pastel pinks, yellows and greens brought the

look of spring to the Post Recreation Center as Morale, Welfare and Recreation ushered in its first Spring Gospel and Fashion Show, April 12.

The afternoon affair featured designer fashions from V&T Collections of Havre de Grace and Peruvian Connections from Perryville Prime Outlets, and an inspirational liturgical dance by Denise Coleman of the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center. Musical entertainment included gospel selections from Regina Mack, director, APG Gospel service; the Joppa Church of God choir and the NECPOC choir.

Earlene Allen, MWR program team coordinator, said the event was presented in response to requests for more gospel-based events from the community.

"After this past winter, this was a good time for folks to get out, enjoy the warmer weather and see what spring has in store for them," Allen said.

She thanked the show's sponsors, the volunteer performers, and the MWR staff. Dozens of guests from the surrounding community and as far away as Baltimore enjoyed

Lenora Robinson, of Eleganza, Inc., served as the show's host and narrated as models strode through the audience displaying the latest looks of the season.

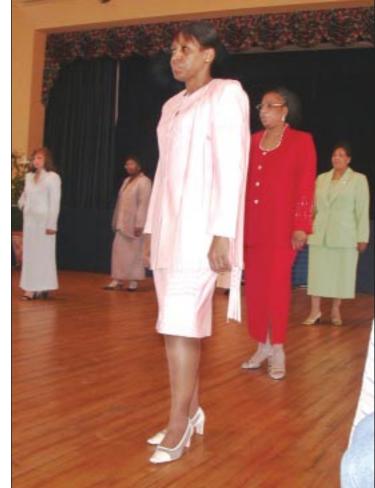
Also on hand was Regina Scott of Regina's Elegant Style in Northeast. Scott's booth offered fashionable hats, scarves, and acces-

The Reverends Theodore and Violet Tann, of V&T Collections, whose fashions were featured in the show, also provided sale items from their designer collection.

In addition, Tracy Potochny led three Mary Kay consultants who offered guests makeup and skin care samples and suggestions.

The Rev. Violet Tann opened the program with the invocation followed by a musical selection by Mack, who looked every bit a model herself, in a purple single-breasted jacket and matching narrow, mid-calf length skirt with a back slit. Mack received a warm ovation for the song, "Your Mercy."

The fashion show commenced with Robinson describing the details of each ensemble as the models strode through the audience in



From front, Linda Robinson, Karen Aaron and Bessie Smith, lead other models, from left rear, Lynn Smith and Barbara Green, in displaying the latest spring fashions during Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Spring Gospel Fashion Show, held April 12 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation

See FASHION, page 14

Deployment News

Robots put 'treads on the ground' in Iraq

Timothy L. Rider

Information Management Task Force

While airborne robots, otherwise known as unmanned aerial vehicles, first gained notoriety in Operation Desert Storm, a treads-on-theground cousin, the "Packbot," has now debuted in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A robot was used to remotely look for enemy soldiers thought to be hiding in an agricultural center building on March 30. The following day it was used to remotely examine equipment left on an airfield before engineers from the 101st Airborne cleared the runway for humanitarian relief operations, according to Sgt. 1st Class Tim South, special projects noncommissioned officer for the Rapid Equipping Force.

"In both operations, Packbot operators used the robot to verify there were no enemy soldiers in the building or booby traps or mines on the airfield where the enemy was believed to have conducted 'airfield denial operations,'" said

The robot is capable of maneuvering over and around obstacles, said South. It is equipped with remote infrared and optical cameras that operators can use to closely examine caves, rooms or airfields while at a distance safely away from the effects what South calls "surprises:" booby traps, mines, weapons caches, or enemy soldiers.

Operators use a wireless controller to maneuver the robot and control the camera. The Force.

view from the camera is seen through a helmetmounted eveniece, according to Mai. Keith McGuire, project leader for the Rapid Equipping Force.

The robot is maneuverable enough to climb stairs and continue even if it is flipped over.

"It pretty much maneuvers over all terrain," said South.

It is also equipped with an infrared light so it

can maneuver and see in total darkness. South said there are two reasons why the equipment is valuable to soldiers.

"One, you know what to expect when you go into the objective. Two, if you don't have the equipment, the soldier is going to possibly find it the hard way. He may contact the enemy, or trip the mine, or set the booby trap," South said.

Robots have been turned over to engineers in the division at the request of the 101st Division commander, said South, who deployed with McGuire and the engineers from Camp Pennsylvania to Iraq for one week to train them in Packbot operations and maintenance.

"In the long haul we're not going to be there to operate it. It will be turned over to soldiers," said South.

The Packbot was first used in combat in July of 2002 to examine caves and a building complex in Nasarat, Afghanistan, according to Col. Bruce Jette, director of the Rapid Equipping



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command PAO The Packbot searches for booby traps on a truck on Najaf airfield, March 31.

Mail clerks bring a little bit of home to the desert



es off a box during mail sorting.

Story and photo by Spc. Adam Nuelken 3ID (M) PAO

Neither rain, nor wind, nor heat, nor sandstorms can keep the mail away.

While deployed to Kuwait, soldiers feed on any information they can get from home. Whether it be a small letter or package full of 'pogey bait,' high morale and the warmness of home accompanies it all.

"I think [the mail] is the most important piece of information coming through," said Staff Sgt. Israel Modera, a utility equipment repair specialist for Company B, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, and also the Hammer mailroom noncommissioned offiway for soldiers to keep in touch with the family back home."

Cpl. Joshua Kronyak, an infantryman with Co. B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry and mail clerk for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team added, "Given our current situation of phones and internet being limited, it's probably the biggest morale booster out here."

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team gains more soldiers regularly and the Hammer mailroom handles it all the same.

To date there are more than 5,000 soldiers in the brigade, but only five mail clerks to handle all the mail. On any

hundreds of parcels and thousands of letters, according to Kronyak, a Honesdale, Pa., native. The mail also has to be guarded until it is picked up because it is considered a sensitive item.

"Most times it takes three hours just to sort it," said Modera, a Guayama, Puerto Rico, native.

With the influx of mail, there is also a greater chance of parcels being damaged in shipping. Although the clerks on the Hammer Assembly Area do their best, they can't prevent damage that occurs before they take custody of it.

"I had a package that came certified, and it was damaged," cer-in-charge. "It's the only Kronyak said. "Everything that was in it was destroyed.

> There are so many hands the mail goes through - and even rough handling during transportation by air or ground vehicle across the desert can contribute to the damage, he added.

> "We do everything we can to make sure soldiers get their mail undamaged once we receive it, but we can't help what happened before we receive it," he said.

Some damage can be prevented by the units using large enough vehicles to carry the mail back instead of cramming it in a HMMWV [High Mobility Multi Purpose unit.

given day, the soldiers handle Wheeled Vehicle], Modera

"The only other precaution units can take is to only let unit mail clerks handle the mail, so they know it goes through the right personnel," he added.

Another concern soldiers face is mail getting lost or possibly stolen in route to Kuwait, but patience is a key factor in resolving such issues, Modera

"From the lowest ranking soldier to the highest ranking commander, they all need to be patient with the mail," Modera explained. "It is slow, but there is a group of professionals handling the mail, and we will get it out to you."

Kronyak explained that the clerks are still getting mail from when their brigade was here during Operation Desert Spring.

"We get packages that were postmarked back in October," he said.

The clerks said there is a trick to getting the mail to you quicker, though. Just make sure family and friends have the correct address. If family members are still using camp addresses, there is a good chance the parcels and letters can bounce from camp to camp until they find the right

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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PULL-UPS IN KUWAIT

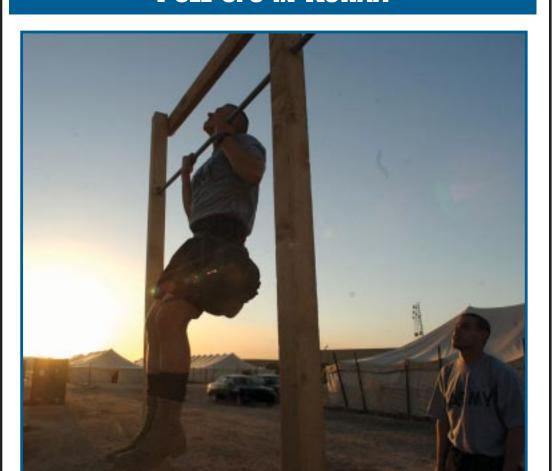


Photo by SPC. ANDREW KOSTERMAN

Sgt. Chad Kibert, left, and Pfc. Marlon Soto, as spotter, both military policemen with the 82nd Military Police Company, does pull-ups before going on a jog with their body armor at Camp Champion Main, Kuwait. (Spc. Andrew Kostermann is assigned to Camp Champion, Kuwait, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne).

Health

SSA acts to protect benefits for families of troops serving under fire

Social Security Administration

Military families will not lose valuable government disability benefits because a member of the household has been sent into combat.

Jo Anne Barnhart, commissioner of Social Security, has clarified the agency's policies so that individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income disability payments, and Medicaid coverage, can continue to do so even if family income rises due to a mother, father or spouse receiving special combat-related supplements to their military pay.

"We must support the brave men and women who are fighting overseas, as well as their families here at home," Barnhart said. "If one hand of government is providing some additional income to compensate soldiers for the sacrifices they are making for our country, we're not going to let another hand of government take that money away from their disabled child or spouse."

Aged, blind or disabled individuals whose families have limited means can qualify for monthly SSI benefits from the Social Security Administration. Those benefits, in turn, frequently lead to free medical care through state-run Medicaid programs. As a general rule, if other family income goes up, the SSI payment will go down.

Members of the Armed office.

Forces often receive supplements to their basic military pay. Normally, a portion of any pay supplement would be used to reduce benefits paid to any family members on SSI. But Barnhart's directive ensures that any additional pay received by military personnel deployed to a combat zone cannot be used to reduce SSI benefits paid to their children or spouse if they were not receiving the additional pay immediately prior to deployment.

Barnhart also ordered a change in the way the agency treats housing supplements paid to some military families. Traditionally, military bases provided actual housing for service members. But under public-private sector initiatives, some military bases now provide a housing allowance that is used to pay rent to contractors providing privatized housing. Until recently, the full amount of that housing allowance was used to offset any SSI benefits payable to family members. At Barnhart's direction, the agency will treat privatized housing the same as it has always treated actual military housing in the SSI program, enabling some military families in privatized housing who lost SSI payments and Medicaid coverage to regain those benefits.

People who need more information should contact their local Social Security

TRICARE help—Usually no need for supplement

James E. Hamby Jr. Special to the Air Force Times

O. You wrote that the Defense Department says Medicare and TRICARE supplements are not needed under TRI-CARE for Life. I'm keeping mine because I don't trust DoD, Medicare or TRICARE to pay my medical bills as they promise. Uncle Sam promised me a lot of things he didn't deliver on. If TRICARE for Life supplements aren't necessary, why do so many service organizations sell them?

A. I suppose service organizations sell TRICARE for Life supplements for the same reason people sell hotdogs at ball games - there's a captive market for the product, and it's a source of income.

I still believe a TRICARE for Life supplement is an unnecessary expense. If Medicare denies payment for a service, a Medicare supplement will not pay it. The same is true of TRICARE supplements if TRICARE denies a claim.

Under TRICARE for Life, TRICARE does for free what a Medicare supplement does for a premium payment, and more. That is, it pays your Medicare deductible (when applicable) and copayment. It also will pay the 15 percent surcharge on the authorized amount that federal law allows under Medicare and TRICARE when the provider does not participate in the programs. In most cases, it pays your medical bill in full.

Under TRICARE for Life, if Medicare denies a claim for a charge that's a TRI-CARE benefit, TRICARE will pay for it as if TRICARE were your only insurance. No Medicare supplement will do that.

Here's a true example. On his doctor's orders, a retiree bought some elastic stockings. Medicare denied his claim because the item is not a covered benefit. If he had a Medicare supplement, it too would have denied payment.

Tricare covers elastic stockings with proper documentation of medical need. When Medicare forwarded the claim to TRICARE, it was paid as if Medicare didn't exist. Medicare did not help with the TRICARE copayment, so the patient had to pay his TRICARE cost share, 25 percent of the amount allowed. A TRICARE supplement would have paid that.

Chiropractic is the only medical service I ever see mentioned that is a Medicare benefit but, by law, not a TRI-CARE benefit. If you get chiropractic care, Medicare will pay its share, but TRI-CARE won't pay anything for that care. So, you will have to pay what Medicare does not. A Medicare supplement probably would pay that.

Both Medicare and TRICARE are fullcoverage plans. Few mainstream medical services are not a benefit of both programs. That means both Medicare and Tricare will pay on most claims. Medicare will pay first, and TRICARE will pay what Medicare does not pay. You will have no out-of-pocket expense in the vast majority of claims.

To ensure 100 percent coverage 100 percent of the time, you would need a Medicare and a TRICARE supplement. That sounds more expensive than the occasional Medicare or TRICARE copayment you may have under TRICARE for

(Editor's note: This article reprinted with permission. James E. Hamby Jr. writes a question and answer column for the Air Force Times.

James E. Hamby Jr. served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1958 and worked for the headquarters of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services for 12 years before retiring in 1991. Questions for him may be sent in writing to TRICARE Help, Times News Service, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, VA 22159; or by sending an e-mail to MCOchamp@aol.com. When sending e-mail, include the word TRI-CARE in the subject line and do not attach any files in the message.) Attachments will not be opened.)

DoD advises taking precaution against SARS

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA

American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense is advising military and civilian personnel to take precaution against the potentially deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The advisory is especially for those traveling in the Far East, where the flu-like virus is believed to have originated.

Dr. David Tornberg, deputy assistant defense secretary for clinical programs and policy, emphasized that no component in DoD, to include the military services, had a SARS problem—no reported cases in DoD.

Tornberg said, however, DoD is "taking precautions" because of concern for military personnel being exposed to the virus and someone subsequently catching the disease.

"Health risk communications have gone out to the force, the combatant commanders are aware of the threat, they're following the disease closely, and they are taking initiatives to protect the troops," Tornberg said.

"It's prudent to be very wary of any communicable disease, or any disease that adversely affects our service personnel, that decreases their efficiency and their combat readiness," he said.

See SARS, page 6

Post Shorts

p.m. at the Ma and Pa Trail, Williams Street, Bel Air, on May 3. The rodeo will provide tools for safe bicycling for the youth of Harford County. Police officers from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Bel Air, Harford County and the State of Maryland also will partici-

For more information, call Stephen Smith, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning, 410-638-3103 or e-mail rideshare@co.ha.md.us; Robert Maddox, Maryland Department the Environment, 410-537-3223, e-mail Maddox@mde.state.md.us; Katherine Shriver, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 410-732-0500, or e-mail kshriver@baltometro.org; or Peter Olson, One Less Car, 410-360-6755, e-mail or (See pete@onelesscar.org. article on page 5.)

Orientation for newcomers, April 24

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum, formerly APG Newcomer Orientation, will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, April 24, 1 to 3 p.m. All military and civilian personnel, retirees and their family members are invited to attend.

More than 55 representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss the latest information on their activities. Give-aways will be available and door prizes awarded.

For more information, call Godofredo Posadas, Family Well-Being Program manager, Army Community Service, 278-2453/7474.

Technology Expo April 24

The U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Information Management and Corporate Information Office SBCCOM are again co-hosting the Annual Spring

Information Technology Products and Services Expo on April 24, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Top of The Bay on Plumb Point Road.

Exhibitors include ACS; ASAP Software; Brocade Communications; **CCS** Presentation Systems; CDW-G; Data Base Connection; Decision Systems Technologies; Dell; Deployable Systems Inc.; Technologies; ForeScout Force 3; Gateway; GMR; GovConnection; GTSI; HP; IBM; iGov; Insight Public Sector; Intellidyne; MEDI; Metro Office Products; MPC (formerly Micron PC); NCI Information Systems; NEC; Mitsubishi; Network Appliance; Newark Electronics; Office Eagle; Panasonic; PC Mall Government; Professional Products Inc.; Research in Motion (Blackberry) Sharp Electronics; Staples; STI Systems, Inc.; Westwood Microsystems; Computer; Wrightline; Xerox, and more.

The expo is open and free to Defense Department government or contractor personnel. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Federal Direct Access Expositions toll-free at 1-877-332-3976.

DTC hosts Asian-Pacific event

The U.S. Army **Developmental Test Command** will sponsor the annual Asian-Pacific Heritage celebration May 13 at Top of the Bay, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The theme is "Salute to Freedom," and the guest speaker is Samuel Mok, a chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Labor. The free event will include samples of food catered by Aberdeen's Country Buffet and entertainment by Meki's Tamure and Sei Oriana Polynesian dancers.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Arbel Connor at 410-278-2529, or Sgts. 1st Class Duffie Robertson at 410-278-1053, Rodney Yelder at 410-278-5598, Peggy McCormick at 410-278-9146. and Thomas Serino at 410-278-1534.

APG Transportation Office hours

The APG Transportation Office located in building 4302, Boothby Hill Road, will be open Monday through Thursday, 7 to 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 to 4 p.m., and from 12:15 to 4 p.m. on Fridays, except on alternate RDO Fridays when the office will close at 3 p.m.

The telephone number for HHG Inbound Transportation is 410-278-2992, the telephone number for HHG Outbound Transportation is 410-278-3897/4084 and the telephone number for Passen-ger Travel is 410-278-3858/5695.

The Administrative Offices and TC-ACCIS Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday (closed on alternate Fridays). The phone number for the Transportation Officer is 410-278-3896 and for the administrative assistant is 410-278-5384.

TC-ACCIS is available to all units.

FCC holds book fair

Family Child Care is sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair April 30 through May 2, 3 to 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902. There will be books for all ages.

On May 3, the Book Fair will be held 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the FCC Spring Fling Activity at Edgewood Youth cocaine, Ecstasy, and more. Services.

Child & Youth Services will benefit by adding new books to our libraries. Clifford, the dog, may make an appearance. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call Beverly Hartgrove, 410-278-9832.

Badge/ID, Vehicle **Registration offices** have new hours

Beginning April 21, the new hours for all services for the Badge/ID and Vehicle Registration offices at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas will be Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon, and 12:30 to 4 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3 p.m.

On Fridays following payday and all federal holidays, the offices will be closed.

For more information, call 410-306-2381.

Online resource for Operation Iraqi Freedom

An online reference for frequently asked questions about Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include supporting soldiers, mail, family related issues and locating soldiers is at http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on April 24, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topics will include updates on the Lauderick Creek CWM Removal Action, Canal Creek Study Area, operations security discussion and Munition Destruction System.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Days of Remembrance set for April 29

The annual Days of Remembrance observance will be held April 29, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Post Theater.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has designated "For your freedom and ours" as the theme for the 2003 Days of Remembrance observance in honor of those who took a stand for freedom in 1943 against overwhelming odds.

The guest speaker is holocaust survivor Ruben Szatjer. Born in Klobuhtz, Poland, on Feb. 28, 1926, Sztajer's journey began when the Jews were evacuated at the start of the war. Many returned or were sent back after a few months. Szatier lived in the Klobuhtz ghettos from 1940 to 1942.

From April 1942 to June 1943, Szatjer lived and worked at Markstadt, a forced labor camp, then he was transferred to Funfteichen Concentration Camp where he was forced to participate in death marches.

Szatjer was eventually shipped to Bergen Belsen in 1944 and remained there until the British liberated the camp on April 15.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Serino at 410-278-1534.

ASAP offers training materials

The Army Substance Abuse Program has updated training materials in video, pamphlet, booklet and CD format. Topics include alcohol, heroin,

Training materials can be used in meeting the mandatory four hours of military training and the three hours of required training for all civilians.

Anyone with questions about preparing for a class should call Troy Denson, Prevention coordinator, 410-278-3137.

Free Baltimore Inner Harbor Seaport Day Passes

With an active duty military ID, up to four family members (all with military IDs) may obtain a full day pass on the Seaport Taxi and visit the USS Constellation and Baltimore Maritime Museum (includes U.S. Coast Guard Taney, U.S. Submarine Torsk, Lightship Chesapeake and Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse).

Passes are available at the Constellation Center or the National Historic Seaport ticket booth on the Aquarium Pier.

For more information or for hours of operation, visit www.constellation.org, or call 410-539-1797; or www.baltomaritimemuseum, or call 410-936-3453. The free day pass offer is valid through April 30.

KUSAHC offers Take **Care of Yourself** Class

Classes are held on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All patients enrolled in TRI-CARE Prime are eligible to attend. The purpose of the class is to teach patients how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, and when to see a doctor.

The classes will be conducted by a Registered Nurse using the Take Care of Yourself handbook that was given to each patient enrolling in TRI-CARE Prime.

At the end of each class Medication Cards will be given out which will allow patients to pick up specific over-the-counter medications without a prescription.

This class and pharmacy privilege is limited to TRI-CARE Prime patients only.

To sign up for the class, call 410-278-1964 .

CWF hosts trip to **Broadway**

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip on May 17 to see "Gypsy" on Broadway. This show is a revival of the 1959 musical based upon the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee. Prior to the show, there will be time for shopping and lunch.

The price is \$120 per person, which includes charter bus transportation and ticket for the show.

For reservations or more information, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771

Federal Trade Commission Military Sentinel project

Information from Federal Trade Commission about its Military Sentinel complaint database is available at http://www.consumer.gov/military/. The complaint database is specially designed to accommodate the needs of military personnel and their families.

The previous link to the reprintable Military Sentinel article did not work correctly because the group that wrote it changed the article's location on its Web site.

The correct link is http://www.napsnet.com/safety/56766.html.

Fact of the Week

One out of four lives **Americans** within four miles of a Superfund hazardous waste site.

> - Environmental Protection Agency

5



Commander's



Cup

The 3-on-3 Basketball post champions from Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion, celebrate their win in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, April 12. From left, Rian Carter, Zane Beagle, Mark Frasier, coach Allen Stewart, and Nate Bailey. In front are Frazier's three daughters.

Commander's Cup Point Standings



The race for the 2003 Commanders' Cup is underway. The Commander's Cup is awarded each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year. Units garner points in basketball, the bench press competition, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, racquetball, volleyball, softball, golf, the deadlift competition, soccer and football. Points are awarded for unit participation and division and post championship wins. The following units currently lead in Commander's Cup point totals.

First quarter		HHC 143rd	39
USMC	78	Company B 143rd	32
Company E 16th	72	Company A 16th	19
Company C 16th	64	Company B 16th	18
HHC 16th	63	Company C 143rd	14
MRICD	55	389th	13
NCOA	52	KUSAHC	10
USAF	47	CHPPM	8
1/246th (National Guard) HST	43 41	520th TAML	7
HHC 61st	40	TEU	6
THICOISE	40	ILO	U

Company E 16th takes 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney from HHC 143rd, 16-9

Story and photos by **Yvonne Johnson**APG News

The intramural 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was held April 12 at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center. Company E 16th won the championship over Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 16-9 to win the post championship and gain in Commander's Cup point standings.

The annual event drew 10 teams for the single elimination tournament. The games were played with a 20-minute limit, or the first team to 16 points. Both teams went undefeated through three rounds before meeting in the championship.

The Company E 16th championship team included Nate Bailey, Zane Beagle, Mark Frasier, Rian Carter and coach Allen Stewart.

The HHC 143rd team consisted of Kraus Johnson, coach, and Scott Gilbert, Chadwick

Cole, and Shaun Smith.

The APG Sports Office reported the following results for the intramural 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:

Results

Company April 12

April 12
E 16th, 16; Company C 16th, 12
Company E 16th, 17; USAF, 5
USMC #2, 16l; Company C 16th, 13
HHC 143rd, 18; Company C 16th, 16
MRICD, 18; Company C 16th, 16
HHC 143rd, 16; USMC, 4

Finals Company E 16th, 16; USMC #2, 10

HHC 143rd, 16; MRICD, 12 Championship

Company E 16th, 16; HHC 143rd, 9

The next Commander's Cup event is the Dead Lift Competition, April 26, 9 a.m. at the Aberdeen Athletic Center.

OCS

From front page

351-5 (Officer Candidate School) or log on to the OCS Web page at http://www.armyocs.com/home/.

For OCS application information, call the SBC-COM Adjutant's Office, Vanessa Cefaloni, 410-436-2130/3239 or e-mail her at milpo@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.

Ordnance

From front page

During the review, the Ordnance Corps will pay tribute and say farewell to the Honorary Regimental Colonel, Warrant Officer and Sergeant Major of the Corps. Retired Army Gen. Leon Salomon, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ted Reno, and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Battle will be honored for their years of dedicated service to the soldiers and civilian members of the Ordnance Corps team.

The new honorary leadership will be introduced during the ceremony. All are retired from the U.S. Army. They are Gen. John Coburn, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tom Grice, and Command Sgt. Maj. George Cutbirth.

The anniversary celebration will continue and conclude with the Ordnance Anniversary Ball at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker for the evening will be retired Army Gen. Leon Salomon.

Also during the evening there will be a special unveiling of the third in a three-part series of ordnance paintings by noted artist Don Stivers. More information about the print and the ordering process is available

http://www.usaoca.org/stivers.html.

Stockpile

From front page

Mustard, a syrupy blister compound with the consistency of molasses, has been safely stored and monitored for more than 60 years at the Chemical Agent Storage Yard, under the supervision of the Edgewood Chemical Activity.

"We have an impressive team of individuals supporting this mustard agent neutralization process," said Lt. Col. Gerald Gladney, ECA commander. "Every team member has received extensive training and is ready to execute this critical mission in an extremely safe and highly competent manner. It is abundantly clear to everyone involved in this process that each individual has a personal responsibility for considering safety first and safeguarding the workers, our community and the environment, always."

Members of the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, which has 60 years of experience in the movement of hazardous chemicals, is responsible for moving the large steel containers of mustard to the neutralization facility.

The Army worked closely with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, who approved the plans and procedures for the neutralization facility.

Employees will work around the clock for the next six months to destroy the agent. The facility is expected to drain and neutralize an average of 12 containers per day. Bechtel Aberdeen project manager Lee Smith noted that the plant essentially has been open and operating on a 24-hour-a-day, sevenday-a-week test, training and evaluation schedule since early December, compiling thousands of hours of hands-on experience in the months leading up to neutralization start-up.

"We take worker safety very seriously," he added. "Everyone who works here is not only proficient at their job, but also in maintaining the highest standards of personal and plant safety. Our goal is to perform our mission while protecting our workforce, our community and the fragile environment of the Chesapeake Bay watershed."

The commitment to safety led to a change in the facility's startup date, which had been scheduled for March 3. Record-setting snowstorms and equipment adjustments delayed some essential tests and the conduct of the integrated operations demonstration in which the proficiency of all four shifts in running the facility is evaluated, using water rather than mustard agent. The successful completion of this evaluation certified that both personnel and equipment were ready to start mustard agent operations.

Public meetings were held, most recently in January, to explain the accelerated neutralization process, and information is always available to the public. For details on the process, call the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 410-676-6800, or go to the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional) Web site, www.cma.army.mil, for information and fact sheets.

Chaplain's Corner _____

The purpose of pain (devotional)



Chaplain (CAPT.) SHAWN MCCAMMON 143rd Ordnance Battalion

Approximately one out of every 400,000 babies is born with a rare genetic disease known as familial dysautonomia. This disease prevents a child from feeling pain. At first reflection, the inability to experience pain may seem like a blessing. Imagine the possi-

doesn't feel the pain of contact; a boxer who can endure a terrible beating in the ring and not feel the hurt, and/or a woman who can bear children without the pain of childbirth.

The tragedy is that a child with this disease will never live long enough to know the glory of the gridiron or the joy of childbirth. Such a child will receive cuts, burns, and broken bones - never feeling anything. A cavity will rot the tooth without an ache. A broken bone will puncture the skin before anyone is aware of the fracture. An appendix will burst without a sharp pain in the side.

So, in many ways, pain can be good. It can be God's warning device that something is wrong - like a red light on the dashboard that alerts you to about your pain.

bilities - a football player who the fact that the engine is hot or the battery is low or the oil pressure is dropping. Pain can also be a signal of something very, very right that's just in transition. Whether youthful muscles exerted in play or from a birth canal stretched to seemingly impossible limits, pain signals change, growth, development - the birth of something new.

There are many kinds of pain - physical, emotional, spiritual - each with its own kind of intensity. Pain can be chronic, dull discomfort, or it can be a sudden jolt of such magnitude that it causes you to reel and collapse.

Pain often seems pointless, but God assures us that it is always purposeful (Romans 8:28). Come talk to a chaplain

From page 3

SARS is a mysterious respiratory illness that has flu-like symptoms that include fever, body aches, headaches, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the syndrome may be associated with other symptoms, including headache, muscular stiffness and loss of appetite, malaise, confusion, rash and diarrhea.

Tornberg said 90 percent of the people who have SARS-related infections recover uneventfully. "It's only 10 percent [of people] that have severe trouble, and consequences in the worst cases can lead to death," he noted.

Tornberg said that DoD is working with the World Health Organization and the CDC to track SARS and reduce the risks for catching

In doing so, Tornberg said that DoD is discouraging travel to certain Far East countries and asking personnel to follow State Department and CDC travel advisories. He said only "essential travel" should be taken in countries that have high concentrations of SARS

For example, Pacific Command, which includes the area where the virus has been most active, said Defense Department personnel may make only mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong because of the disease's threat.

SARS is spread by contact with respiratory droplets from people ill with the disease. Despite its easy transmission, the virus appears to have a "relatively low" communicability, Tornberg said.

contact with someone who has the condition, either an immediate household contact and be in contact with that person on a sustained basis," he said. Tornberg said that regular hand washing and

"To get the disease, you have to be in close

avoiding people who are ill with flu-like symptoms dramatically reduces the risk of transmis-He cautioned everyone to also avoid people who are sick and those who have traveled to Far

East countries that have reported the disease. Tornberg said people who feel sick, have flulike symptoms and have associated with someone who's been to the Far East should see a

For more information, visit the DoD Health Affairs Web site at http://www.ha.osd.mil or the CDC site at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/.

Community Notes

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50, building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard. To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.



AGENT CODY BANKS

Friday, April 25, 7 p.m. Starring: Frankie Muniz, Hilary Duff

Teenager, Cody Banks is recruited by the U.S. government to be a special

agent that they call upon when they're faced with a mission that can only be accomplished by someone who wouldn't normally be old enough for such a mission. (Rated PG)



WILLARD

Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m. Starring: Crispin Glover, Laura Harring

FREE ADMISSION)

Pestered by his coworkers, Willard exacts revenge when one of his pet rats is killed at work. Led by the unusually intelligent rat Ben, an army of rats descends on those who did Willard wrong. (Rated PG-13)



TEARS OF THE SUN Saturday, April 26, 9 p.m.

Starring: Bruce Willis

A team of Navy Seaks is sent into the jungle in the heart of Nigeria on a search and rescue mission for a doctor. Can a handful of U.S. soldiers get to

their rendezvous point before the several hundred African soldiers on their trail get to them first?

(Rated R. Due to frequent graphic violence, involving depictions of military combat and atrocities, occasional profanity, fleeting nudity and depiction of rape in war torn setting, parental caution is STRONGLY URGED.)

FRIDAY

APRIL 25 **BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit Bakerfield Elementary PTA will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen. Bingo starts at 7

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Sandy Pierce, 410-273-7184, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY APRIL 26 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit VFW Post 8185 will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or 410-939-1937, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY **APRIL 26, 27** SHOOT THE HEART **OUT OF HUNGER**

The Deer Creek Archery, International Bowhunting Organization, and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry will host a 3D shoot to raise money for the hun-

The cost of the shoot is \$25 for the IBO world qualifier with \$10 going to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and \$5 going to IBO. The cost for the fun shoot is \$20 with \$10 going to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

All registrants will be eligible for Shoot prizes, door prizes and auction items donated by Deer Creek Archery, archery manufacturers, and friends of Deer Creek Archery. Muzzy, country music star Andy Griggs, Wildlife Research Center, Inc. and others have donated prizes and auction items.

For an updated list, visit Web site www.deercreekarchery.com.

Anyone wishing to donate money, advertising, prizes or auction items should call George Bennett, 410-734-9554.

To register for the shoot, visit Deer Creek Archery, 3021 Churchville Road, Churchville, or visit www.deercreekarchery.com.

FRIDAY MAY 2 **BASKET BINGO**

American Legion Post 194,

336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a basket bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for 20 games. Proceeds will benefit Boy Scout Troop

For more information call 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingors@aol.com.

COUNTRY HOE DOWN

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing the first Friday of the month at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$8; cash bar and no lessons.

For more information, call 410-272-8318.

SATURDAY MAY 3 **WAC ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON**

The Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, Chesapeake Beacon Chapter 114T, will sponsor the 60th WAC Anniversary Luncheon, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Four Points Sheraton. Aberdeen.

Guest speaker will be Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison commander, APG. Entertainment will be provided by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) Woodwind Quintet. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made not later than April 23. For more information or to make reservations, call Wanda Story, 410-272-5040

SUNDAY MAY 4 **WAR OF 1812 RE-ENACTMENT AT HAVRE DE GRACE**

The Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace ("The Lock House") will hold the annual re-enactment of the British attack on Havre de Grace in the War of 1812. Camp will open at 10 a.m.

Activities include a cannon demonstration and firing, a lecture by Chris George, the British attack on Havre de Grace, the Star Spangled Banner Flag demonstration, lecture by Vince Vaise, a "Fracas at Rodgers Tavern" and the British plunder of houses on Green Street. The encampment will be open to visitors at 5 p.m. Free admission.

For more information, call

Jeff Miller, 410-939-1873; Charles Hiner, 410-939-9928, or the Susquehanna Museum at 410-939-5780.

WEDNESDAY

MAY 7 **DAV BEL AIR CHAPTER 30**

The Disabled American Veterans Bel Air Chapter 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Harford Post #39 upper hall, 500 Conowingo Road, Bel Air.

There is plenty of parking space and a large hall with refreshments for sale down-

For more information, call 410-838-8325 or 410-879-0861.

SATURDAY MAY 10

SPRING FLING

Pastor Cheryl Hill of the Faith Partnership Council and members of Neighbors Interested in the Community of Edgewood, or N. I. C. E., invite members of the community to take part in The Annual Spring Fling - Nickel Day, noon to 4 p.m., Lake Serene, Edgewood. Rain date is May 31. To participate as an exhibitor, call Robin Rossbach, 410-638-3333 or

rarossbach@co.ha.md.us.

For more information, call Cheryl Hill, 410-767-8896.

HOME BUYING WORKSHOP

Home Partnership, Inc., a non-profit agency, will hold a free workshop on How to Buy Your Own Home at Chesapeake Community Church, 900 Trimble road, Joppa.

Free lunch will be provided. Registration is required. Call 410-297-6700.

FRIDAY JUNE 6 COUNTRY HOE DOWN

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing the first Friday of the month at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$8; cash bar and no lessons.

For more information, call 410-272-8318.

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Library's new operating hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8:45 p.m. and Friday, noon to 4:30 p.m.

The library is located in the basement of building 3071.

For more information, call 410-278-4991.

The Early Show features APG MCSC, April 24

Early morning viewers will be able to watch a special feature on CBS' The Early Show on the Aberdeen Proving for "Operation Gold Star Flags." (This Ground Military and Civilian Spouses Club, between 8 and 9 a.m.

The MCSC is the focus of a story for their support in preparing service flags could change due to programming by the station.)

Morale, Recreation & Welfare

Activities

Outdoor Rec Expo

Outdoor Recreation is having an expo on May 5, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in front of the Equipment Recourse Center, building 2407. Come out to see what ODR has to offer and see what is in season for rent. There will be demonstrations and personnel on hand to answer questions. For more information, contact Kenny Singleton at 410-278-4124 or e-mail kenny.singleton@usag.apg.army.mil.

Beginning Tai Chi

This series of classes teaches the art of Tai Chi. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday starting May 5, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Russell Gym. Cost is \$40. Register by April 28. For more information, contact Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Tai Chi

This all-levels class in Tai Chi is held every Tuesday and Thursday starting May 6, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Area Fitness Center. Cost for this class is \$40. Register by April 28. For more information, contact Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail her at stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Introduction to canoeing

This course is designed to teach the basic fundamentals of canoeing. Basic stroking techniques for maneuvering in all types of water and weather conditions will be demonstrated and taught through hands-on training techniques. This threeweek class starts May 3 at Aberdeen Boat Docks from 9 to 10 a.m. Register by May 1. For more information, contact Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil.

Introduction to golf

This two-hour class will help take the fear out of the game for the first time golfer. Class includes a brief tour of the clubhouse, a demonstration on how the ball machine works, and discusses golf etiquette and the difference between golf clubs. Each participant will receive a special gift. Class will held on May 7 at Ruggles Golf Course from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$30. Register by April 30. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Golf school for beginners

This four-week series of classes takes the intimidation out of the game for firsttime golfers. Every aspect of golf will be covered from the correct stance, grip, clubs, etiquette, to the swing. The first class will be held on May 3 at Ruggles Golf Course, 11a.m to 1p.m, but subsequent classes will be one hour. Cost for the series of classes is \$55. Register by April 25. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or email her at stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.-

May golf tournament

An individual net tournament with USAG handicap will be held May 4 at Exton Golf Course. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$22 for patrons, \$27 for authorized and \$33 for all others. The fee includes golf, cart and prizes. Register by May 2. For more information, call Gene Harris at 410-436-2213 or e-mail gene.harris@usag.apg.army.mil.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

A few of the new children's books available at the APG MWR libraries are:



There was an old lady who **swallowed a fly** by Simms Taback

Here is a book to be swallowed whole by children of all ages. Award-winning illustrator Taback has produced an ingenious take on this cumulative American folk tale. A

die-cut hole on each page allows readers to see where the animals go in the lady's ever-expanding stomach. In the new "big book" version, the last hole is the size of the horse, of course.



Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett

That Peskv Rat by Lauren Child





Henry and Mudge and the Tall Tree House by Cynthia Rylant

Rise the Moon by Eileen





The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Audrey Wood

Down by the Station by Will Hillenbrand



To receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically, call the library at 410-278-3417.

Child Youth Services presents 'Passport to Adventure'

Child and Youth Services is sponsoring a Spring Fling, with free balloon sculptures, face painting, bounce house and Passport to Adventure, May 3, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the

Edgewood Youth Services building E-1902. Parents and children of all ages are invited to join the free festivities.

There will be music, entertainment and free give aways. Activities include arts and crafts, 50-yard dash, relay races, Punt, Pass and Kick competition, a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog, a helicopter landing, the "Nothing Up My Sleeve" clown

Enjoy free hot dogs, chips, popcorn and lemonade. Door prizes will be given away every half hour but participant must be present to win.

Program displays and registration information will be available. For more information, call Outreach Services at 410-278-

SCHOOL LIAISON

APG 'YOUTH OF THE YEAR'

The first phase applications for the 2003 'Youth of The Year' are due May 30. Turn in applications to Catherine Hanlon, Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902, or Angela Shannon at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522.

The APG 'Youth of The Year' program is a partner program with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's national program.

To compete, family members of military or civilian personnel who work at APG must be either a freshmen, sophomore, or junior in high school, maintain at least a "C" average, and be a current member in the local on-post youth center.

The program is run in two phases, and winners of each phase will compete for APG Youth of The Year in December.

Applicants are judged on character and leadership in areas such as school, home, family, spiritual, overcoming adversity, community service, service to club and written essays.

The Youth Services staff is available to coach perspective applicants through the process. For more information, contact Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2847.

APG CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL FITNESS **PROGRAM**

revealed.

The latest statistics about children becoming too sedentary due to lack of physical activity have been

One way to reverse this negative trend is to form a parents and educators group that will develop neighborhood after school and weekend programs.

The idea would be an ongoing program of sustained, aerobic activities that children could participate in a minimum of three times per week, and at least 25-30 minutes in duration for each activity. To make it interesting and fun, a variety of aerobic activities that are age appropriate could

be offered with incentives, at different and sustained participation levels and age groups throughout the year.Children participating would chart their progress and parents would sign off as having completed the activity.

This could be a life-skills carry-over activity that would be beneficial for a lifetime. Reward and recognition would also be a big

Anyone interested in helping should contact Ivan Mehosky, School Liaison/Youth Education Support Services at 410-278-2857 or e-mail ivan.mehosky@usag.apg.ar my.mil.

PREK/K REGISTRATION

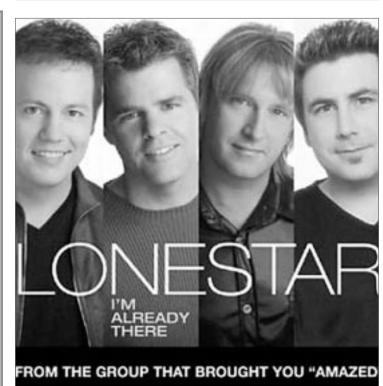
Roye-Williams Elementary School will hold its annual pre-kindergarten/kindergarten registration for the 2003 to 2004 school year, May 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kindergarten registration packets may be picked up at the school beginning April 14 for completion and return on registration day

for children who will be five years of age as of Nov. 30, 2003.

Pre-kindergarten registration packets may be picked up after 9 a.m. on May 2 for children who will be four years of age as of Oct. 31, 2003.

When application forms are received, they will be checked for completeness and stamped with the date/time they were received. Parents who register their child for prekindergarten prior to June 17 will be notified prior to June 30 of their child's acceptance/non-acceptance into the program.

Parents are requested to bring their child's birth certificate or verification of birth, Social Security card and all immunization records. The school also requires proof of residency, which can be in the form of a copy of a property tax bill, rental lease, or utility bill (dated within the last two months prior to registration), which contain your name and address.



Lone Star concert slated for Sept. 12

Aberdeen Proving Ground Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting country western band Lone Star, with special guest Trace Adkins at this year's summer concert on Sept. 12.

In conjunction with Armed Forces Day, concert tickets will be sold on a one-day only special sale of \$15 on May 17 at Ripken Stadium and at the Truckload Sale in front of the Commissary.

Tickets go on sale May 19 at \$20 per person in advance, and \$25 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased from the Hoyle Fitness Center, MWR Registration in building 3326, Ticketmaster, or at the MWR Web site www.apg.mwr.com.

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, MWR marketing director, 410-278-4497.

CYS requests survey completion

Pat Palazzi

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Child and Youth Services Division must be proactive in determining in advance how it can support soldiers and families during times of mobilization/deployment and other emergency situations.

By filling out the survey and returning it, participants will be helping CYS to be

ready to support the needs of the APG community when duty calls.

The time and effort spent filling out this survey will have a direct impact on CYS' ability to provide viable support services for families, when and if the need occurs.

Surveys can be picked up at the PX, commissary and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic or printed from the APG News Online Web www.apgnews.apg.army.mil.

Arts and Crafts class

A woodshop orientation class will be held May 3, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Edgewood Arts & Crafts, building E-4440. Cost is \$5. The woodshop orientation is a safety course required to use the woodshop.

To register, call or visit during hours of operation, or go online at www.apgmwr.com. For more information, contact Holly Shisler at 410-436-2153 or e-mail holly.shisler@usag.apg.army.mil.



Hole in one

Richard J. Zaledonis Jr. shot a hole in one at 190 yards using a '5 iron' on April 19 at Hole #12 at Ruggles Golf Course. Congratulations.

Aberdeen Area/Edgewood Area shuttle bus schedule

From Edgewood	Area-Abe	rdeen Area		From Edgewood	Area-Al	erdeen Area	
Shuttle stop	Building	g Arrive	Depart	EA Motor Pool	E-5360		12:10 p.m.
EA Motor Pool	E-5360		7:35 a.m.	EA Dispensary	E-4110	12:13 p.m.	12:15 p.m.
EA Dispensary	E-4110	7:38 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	ID Section	4305	12:35 p.m.	12:37 p.m.
ID Section	4305	8:00 a.m.	8:02 a.m.	Kirk Clinic	2501	12:40 p.m.	12:42 p.m.
Kirk Clinic	2501	8:05 a.m.	8:07 a.m.	Legal	310	12:45 p.m.	12:47 p.m.
Legal	310	8:10 a.m.	8:12 a.m.	AA Motor Pool	5256	12:50 p.m.	1 p.m.
AA Motor Pool	5256	8:15 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	(Mail Run)			
(Mail Run)							
				From Aberdeen	Area-Edg	gewood Area	
From Aberdeen	Area-Edge	wood Area		Legal	310	1:03 p.m.	1:05 p.m.
Legal	310	8:33 a.m.	8:35 a.m.	Kirk Clinic	2501	1:08 p.m.	1:10 p.m.
Kirk Clinic	2501	8:38 a.m.	8:40 a.m.	ID Section	4305	1:13 p.m.	1:15 p.m.
ID Section	4305	8:43 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	EA Dispensary	E-4110		
EA Dispensary	E-4110	9:05 a.m.	9:07 a.m.	EA Motor Pool	E-5360	1:40 p.m.	2:10 p.m.
EA Motor Pool	E-5360	9:10 a.m.	9:35 a.m.	(Mail Run)			
(Mail Run)							
				From Edgewood	l Area-Al	oerdeen Area	

9:35 a.m.

From Edgewood	Area-Aberdeen Area
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EA Dispensary	E-4110	9:38 a.m.	9:40 a.m.
ID Section	4305	10 a.m.	10:02 a.m.
Kirk Clinic	2501	10:05 a.m.	10:07 a.m.
Legal	310	10:10 a.m.	10:12 a.m.
AA Motor Pool	5256	10:15 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
(Mail Run)			
Legal	310	10:33 a.m.	10:35 a.m.
Kirk Clinic	2501	10:38 a.m.	10:40 a.m.
ID Section	4305	10:43 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
EA Dispensary	E-4110	11:05 a.m.	11:07 a.m.

EA Motor Pool E-5360 EA Dispensary E-4110 2:13 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 2:35 p.m. 9:40 a.m. ID Section 4305

Kirk Clinic	2501	2:40 p.m.	2:42 p.m.
Legal	310	2:45 p.m.	2:47 p.m.
AA Motor Pool	5256	2:50 p.m.	2:55 p.m.
(Mail Run)			
From Aberdeen	Area-Edg	ewood Area	
From Aberdeen Legal	Area-Edg 310	ewood Area 2:58 p.m.	3 p.m.
	U		3 p.m. 3:05 p.m.
Legal	310	2:58 p.m.	

HEAT Center open house, April 30

An Open House will be held at the Higher Education and Applied Technology Center

The next HEAT Center Academic Partner Open House is planned for April 30, 5 to 7 p.m. The open house will allow participants to explore opportunities in upper level undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered at the site by the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, University of Phoenix, University of Maryland College Park and Towson University.

Some of the specializations include Biotechnology (M.S.), Business (B.A., M.B.A.), Education (B.A., M.Ed., M.A.), Engineering (ENPM, M.S.), Information Technology (B.S.), Instructional Technology (M.S.), and Nursing (B.S.N.).

Representatives from partner institutions will be available during the open house to discuss their programs and answer questions. Representatives from Harford Community College's Business and Community Services Division will be on hand to discuss opportunities in computer certification, MCSE, MCSA, CCNA, A+, Network+, Server+, I-Net+, Web Graphic Design, and CIW that are offered at the HEAT Center.

For more information, call 410-638-2500. The HEAT Center is located on Route 22 and I-95 in Aberdeen.

Supporting families of hospitalized soldiers

EA Motor Pool (Mail Run) E-5360

Army will pay allowances, as authorized by the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, for family members to visit their hospitalized soldiers. Detailed information is provided on current available support for the families of Very Seriously III and Seriously Injured soldiers. The Army is now working to expand these provisions and expects resolution soon.

The attending physician or surgeon and the commander/head of the medical treatment facility will make the determination of VSI/SI and will determine if the family members' presence is necessary for the health and welfare of the soldier. In these cases, Invitational Travel Orders may be issued authorizing transportation of family members. Under the provisions of the JFTR, no per diem (lodging, meals and incidental expense) is authorized. Coordination with the USMC, Navy and Air Force indicates that they do not pay per diem. The Department of the Army is working to change

- The medical treatment facility commander and the attending physician can request issuance of an Invitational Travel Order. Currently, a maximum of two authorized family members of an active duty VSI/SI soldier is allowed when determined by the attending physician.
- Authorized family members are limited to the soldier's spouse, children, siblings, and parents, to include father and mothers through adoption and persons who have stood in in place of a parent to the soldier for not less than one year immediately before the soldier entered the Army. Only one father, one mother, or their counterparts, may be recognized in any one case. Extended family members will not be funded. Changing the number of family members allowed is being reviewed.
- Travel to hostile fire areas or travel restricted areas is not autho-
 - The medical treatment facility

Headquarters Department of the commander and the attending physician must submit a DA form 2984 to their servicing Casualty Affairs Commander to request issuance of an Invitational Travel Order.

- The DA casualty office is the issuing authority for ITOs issued to family members for travel between CONUS and OCONUS. The commander or the attending physician should submit the request to the servicing CAC, who will then coordinate with DA casualty for issuance
- Stateside CACs are responsible for ITOs for family members of soldiers located in CONUS.
- Only round trip transportation is authorized. No per diem is authorized yet. Travel prior to the arrival of the soldier at the medical treatment facility is not authorized. Per diem authorization is also being reviewed.
- If the family chooses, they may coordinate travel and be reimbursed at the government rate, as long as the travel does not occur prior to ITO approval. Travel without an ITO or prior approval from DA casualty should be avoided, as travel expenses may not be reimbursed unless undertaken pursuant to an ITO issued by a competent authori-
- Once ITOs are issued, DA casualty coordinates the flight arrangements for travel between CONUS and OCONUS and assists the family members with passport and visa requirements. DA casualty provides the family members with instructions on what to do upon arrival in the area. It also provides information concerning the availability of government quarters and dining facilities as well as estimated costs per day while present in the traveled location. Other information such as weather and suggested apparel are also provided as needed.
- Once the travel order is approved, family members may be reimbursed for authorized transportation costs associated with travel from their residence to the location of the hospital, and return.

Reimbursement is authorized for fees paid to obtain expedited pass-

3:35 p.m.

2:10 p.m.

2:37 p.m.

- Mileage reimbursement for transportation from the family members' home to airport is authorized under the provisions of the JFTR. Currently, all other travel-related expenses (e.g., food, lodging, etc.) must be paid by the traveler.
- Congressional authority is being sought to provide funds not to exceed \$250 per soldier for clothing for soldiers who are medically evacuated. The allowance will cover undergarments, casual outerwear, and comfortable footgear. More information will be provided at a future time.

Army Community Service can assist families by identifying military and civilian resources offering assistance with expenses associated with travel of family members to medical treatment hubs. Further contact information on ACS is available at www.goacs.org.

- Family Assistance Centers provide information and referrals to agencies, which can assist with expenses associated with travel and personal care items. Family Assistance Centers are available to all families whether they live on or off the installation - and to members of all services and contracted personnel. Contact the ACS, Reserve or National Guard Family Program managers for the Family Assistance Center number and location. In addition, FACs are being established at medical treatment facilities to consolidate services provided to visiting families. Contact the social work service office for information
- on location and operating hours. • The Community and Family Support Center has implemented a Family Assistance Hotline at 1-800-833-6622. For more information, the hotline staff can refer the caller to the most appropriate source, (e.g., rear detachment commanders, installation Army community service, family assistance centers, civic and private organizations, etc.). Other sources available:

- · Army Emergency Relief provides grants and loans to help in emergency conditions. The Web site is at www.aerhq.org.
- The American Red Cross also works with military aid societies (AER, Navy Marine Corps Society, Air Force Aid Society and the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance) to provide financial assistance for emergency travel requiring the presence of family members. Any family member may call the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Centers for help at the Red Cross hotline 1-866-get-info. Web site is www.redcross.org.
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in conjunction with its posts and departments, may provide emergency financial aid to qualified military personnel or their family members. Application instructions are at Web site www.vfw.org. Click on adopt-a-unit and then adopt-a-unit-guide.
- There is a Web site listing those organizations that wish to provide donations and support to military members and families http://www.defendamerica.mil. Additionally, the Fisher House has traditionally supported families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals at

www.fisherhouse.org. Walter Reed Army Medical Center has a very impressive Family Assistance Center to receive and help care for the growing number of family members who are arriving to meet their medivaced soldiers often with no notice. This is now a pilot program for the Army. Information is available www.wramc.army.mil and an Army telephone hotline is at 1-800-833-6622. Other medical centers will soon stand-up similar operations under CFSC's implementation.

(Editor's note: From a message sent by Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Army Lt. Gen. John M. *LeMoyne.*)

County observes 'Ride Your Bike to Work Day' in May



Yvonne Johnson APG News

The first ever county-sponsored "Ride Your Bike to Work Day" in Harford County will be a two-day event, May 2 and 3, with several festivities planned in Bel Air.

The goal of the event is to increase awareness of the health benefits of cycling, reducing traffic congestion, and improving the environment.

Stephen Smith, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning, said a push is on for maximum participation in the hope the day will become an annual event.

"Ride your bike to work day is a national initiative, celebrated around the country," Smith said. "Bicyclists have the same right to the road as motor vehicles. This is to provide tools for safe bicy-

year is a first for Harford County and for Annapolis.'

An opening day rally on May 2 is from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Harford County Administrative Offices, located at 220 South Main Street in Bel Air.

In addition, at rally points spread out around the community, riders can enjoy breakfast, participate in prize drawings, and chat with elected officials, Smith said.

On May 3, Ride Your Bike to Work Day becomes Ride Your Bike to School Day as a bicvcle rodeo focused on younger riders will be held at the Ma and Pa Trail, on Williams Street, near the McComas Funeral Home, 10 a.m.

Smith said the focus of the event

cling for the youths of Harford County. Law enforcement officers, particularly bicycle patrol officers are encouraged to attend, he said.

Harford County Executive James M. Harkins has issued an invitation encouraging Aberdeen Proving Ground residents and employees to participate in Ride Your Bike to Work Day, as he has done to all the citizens of the coun-

"I am confident this event will further demonstrate the strong cooperative spirit between APG and Harford County," Harkins said.

For more information, contact Smith at 410-638-3103 or visit www.harfordcommuter.com. For more information about "Ride Your Bike to Work Day," visit Web site www.rideshare@co.ha.md.us.

EOD mission ends in 'Ammo Alley'



Staff Sgt. Ernest Richter, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 731st EOD Company at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, surveys his work, rigging a cache of 107mm rockets in "Ammo Alley" 35 kilometers northwest of Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. Three EOD technicians and a Special Forces soldier were killed in an explosion while trying to destroy the same cache last year on April 15.

Story and photo by Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe

Army News Service

ended April 15 when Explosive Ordnance Forces soldier were killed in an explosion April Disposal technicians destroyed two caches of 15, 2002 at the same site, 35 kilometers north-

ordnance in what has come to be called "Ammo Alley."

The mission was delayed more than a year A mission started a year ago in Afghanistan after three EOD technicians and a Special west of Kandahar Air Field.

"One of my good friends was killed there last year, Sgt Jamie Mulligans," said Staff Sgt. Baylin Oswalt, an EOD team leader with the 731st Ordnance Company (EOD) from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "We went through both phases of EOD school together, and then we were stationed together for a year in Korea. He was a real good friends of mine and this mission brought closure being able to go out to where he was killed and destroy that cache."

Others who finished the mission recalled their fallen comrades.

"Everyone felt their loss. We're a very tightknit community so when someone dies in the line of duty, there name doesn't just go on the memorial. We all remember them, whether we knew them from school or through friends," said Staff Sgt Jeffrey Mclean, an EOD team leader with the 754th Ordnance Co. (EOD) from Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

EOD teams from the 731st, 754th and 705th Ordnance companies (EOD) rigged the two piles of ordnance with C-4 explosives, destroyed two large caches of Chinese-made Type 63, 107 mm fin-stabilized rockets, like the ones that are used in attacks against all the fire bases in Afghanistan, said Oswalt.

Heavy equipment engineers that plowed a new road to the cache sites, and a safety around the sites supported the EOD teams. The roads gave a safe area for the EOD teams to rest and a safe route from the main road in the valley out

"With caches in this country you have to watch out for booby-traps," Mclean said. "We knew this site had been previously boobytrapped.... We used the bulldozer to sever any hard wired remote-controlled devices that might have been at the objective we were dealing with."

In the long run, this mission into "Ammo Alley" will also keep weapons and ordnance out of the hands of people wishing to destabilize the national and provincial governments, or cause harm to U.S. forces, officials said.

"We are denying the enemy use of the 107 mm rocket because it seems like they are weapon of choice for the most part," said Lt. Col. Keith Angles, battalion commander of the 184th Ordnance Battalion (EOD) from Ft. Gillam, Ga. "It's almost everyday we hear about one of our compounds getting a 107 mm rockets at it, so the more of those we dispose of, the less they are going to have to shoot at us."

"Ammo Alley is still a big concern. There is still a lot of ammunition and ordnance out there that can be used by hostile Taliban or Al Qaeda, or anyone else that wants to do harm to coalition forces," Mclean said.

There are still more than 20 known munitions cache sites in the valley.

(Editor's note: by Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe is assigned to CTF82 Public Affairs, Kandahar, Afghanistan.)

Meddling with MRE menus, a matter of taste

Kristen Guss Army News Service

Beginning with contract production runs in June, the Defense Logistics Agency will add new Meals, Ready to Eat menus, while eliminating others.

The changes were in response to the likes and dislikes expressed in Army surveys taken by soldiers in the field.

The new entrees include Pork Rib and Sauce, Vegetable Manicotti and Roast Beef with Vegetables.

Entrees being eliminated include Jamaican Pork Chop, Pasta Alfredo and Beef with Mushrooms. However, the current stock of MREs will be used until nents of one meal. Soldiers who are

The MRE is a pre-packaged operational ration designed to sustain an individual engaged in heavy activity such as its customers, DLA provides several types military training or during actual military operations when normal food service facilities are not available. It is totally self-contained and consists of a full meal is provided for individuals in the military packed in a flexible meal bag. The full bag is lightweight and fits into military

field clothing pockets. Each meal bag contains an entree and a variety of other useful items, such as chewing gum, matches and moist toilette.

Except for the beverages, the entire meal is ready to eat. While the entree may be eaten cold when desired or necessary, it can also be heated in a variety of ways, including submersion in hot water while still sealed in its individual entree package. Since Operation Desert Storm, a flameless ration heating device has also been packed into each meal bag to heat the entree.

Each meal bag contains the compoengaged in heavy activity normally consume three MREs a day.

In its ongoing effort to be responsive to of MREs tailored to different dietary requirements.

The Meal, Religious, Kosher or Halal, services who maintain a strict religious diet. Each meal consists of one Kosher or Halal certified entree and religiously certified or acceptable complementary items sufficient to provide the recommended daily nutritional requirements. There are two vegetarian meals in every box of MREs which supports those troops who, for various reasons, cannot consume

Special Humanitarian Daily Rations are also produced and distributed to displaced persons or refugees under emergency conditions. These packs contain enough food to sustain a moderately malnourished person for one day.

In support of Iraqi Operations, the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center Philadelphia has shipped approximately 30 million individual menu bags of MREs. If the menu bags were laid end to end, these MREs would go around the world 228 times. DLA has also procured and begun distribution of more than 4 million Humanitarian Daily Rations. (Editor's note: Kristen Guss works for the

Defense Logistics Agency.)



Courtesy www.longlifefood.com In--MRE meal being added is Pork Rib and Sauce.



Out--MRE meal being removed is Beef With Mushrooms.

Retirees ask for better health care

Army News Service

The Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Army wide.

The CSA Retiree Council, co-chaired by retired Lt. Gen. John A. Dubia and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert E. Hall, is made up of 14 members: seven retired officers and seven retired enlisted soldiers. Prospective members are nominated by their installation retiree councils and approved by the Army chief of

At its annual meeting — held April 7 through 11 this year the council reviews issues forwarded by installation councils and determines which should be reported to the chief of staff and which can be addressed at the installation level. Of the 65 issues submitted this year, 21 concerned health care.

The council also urged the chief of staff to support:

• concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation;

• elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and

legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paidup provision of the plan;

• a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and

• continued full-funding of TRICARE for Life.

The council stated that TRICARE for Life and TRICARE Senior Pharmacy have met many beneficiaries' expectations, but that other improvements need to be made. The council's suggestions include raising TRICARE reimbursement levels; eliminating TRICARE Prime co-payments for retirees and family members under 65; extending TRICARE Prime and retiree dental insurance to retirees outside the continental United States; expanding TRICARE information campaigns; waiving late enrollment fees for Medicare Part B; and improving the relationship between DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care departments.

The council's communications goals include both facets of the Retirement Services mission - preparing soldiers and families for retirement and continuing to support retirees and families as part of the Army after retirement.

One communications goal is quarterly funding of Army Echoes, the Army's bulletin for retirees and the only communications link that reaches all retirees, families and survivors.

The other goal is using a variety of media — Internet, videotape and CD-ROM — to educate active-duty soldiers and families about retirement. This communications effort targets not only those who are about to retire, but also those making military career decisions.

The technology would help Retirement Services Officers communicate with more soldiers and families with information on topics such as the Survivor Benefit Plan and the Career Status Bonus, officials said. They said this information would also enhance professional training programs for commanders and senior non-commissioned officers, most importantly those attending installation command and management courses.

The council presented its concerns to Gen. John M. Keane, Army vice chief of staff, since Shinseki was unable to attend April 11 because of commitments related to the war in Iraq. The co-chairmen of the council said they will meet periodically with the chief of staff during the year to discuss the progress that has been made on issues.

(Editor's note: Information provided by Laura Paul, G1 Retirement Services.)

Fire hydrant flushing begins on APG

Barry Decker

The City of Aberdeen's annual flushing of fire hydrants at Aberdeen Proving Ground began April 22 and will end on or about May 30. Flushing will occur Monday thru Friday of each week midnight through 4 a.m.

Because of drought conditions and the county's efforts to conserve water, system-wide flushing was not performed in 2002.

Customers should be advised that there may be a temporary discoloration of the water, changes in water pressure, or temporary interruption of water service during this time. The potability and safety of the water will not be affected.

Signs will be posted in the installation's housing areas when flushing is scheduled to occur. The City of Aberdeen and the

Directorate of Installation Operations requests the cooperation of its customers and apologizes for any inconveniences created by the flushing operation.

For more information, call Linda Kimmel, DIO, at 410-278-0400.

Flushing schedule

April 22 to 25 2900 Block 3700 Block 2700 Block 3800 Block 2500 Block 3900 Block 2800 Block 2400 Block April 28 to May 2 2400 Block (cont'd) 2300 Block 2200 Block 2100 Block 2000 Block Plumb Point Housing

300 Block Spesutie Island May 5 to 9 1000 Block

700 Block 500 Block May 12 to 16 300 Block 200 Block 400 Block May 19 to 23 600 Block 3000 Block 400 Block

May 27 to 30 3000 Block (cont'd) 4000 Block (cont'd)

Armor modeling show still draws dedicated crowds

Frank S. Palmisano III Special contributors

Anyone who is anyone within the military scale modeling community knows that the annual Armor Modeling and Preservation Society show is not one to pass up. Billed as the 9th International Convention, it is the Cadillac of all shows.

With events ranging from seminars on modeling and vendors tables to raffles and models, the Armor and Modeling Preservation Society show has something for every-

AMPS, as it is known by its members, sponsored the event that ran April 11 and 12 and was held at the community center in Havre de Grace.

Enthusiasts from as far away as Michigan made the journey where some of the best and brightest from the scale armor modeling community gathered to celebrate their

According to Cookie Sewell, AMPS president, the show drew more than 163 registrants, with 500 walk-ins and spectators, while a total of 408 models were entered into the

Despite these numbers, Sewell noted, "The show was 15 percent smaller than 2002."

But he added, "considering a weak economy and the fact many of our members are deployed or unable to get away from their jobs right now, we thought it a great

Because the art of modeling

is not about slapping together anything that falls from the box, each year the show presents a new theme, and this year's, "The Korean War: 1950-53," created a narrow window through which only the most die-hard modelers dared enter their pieces.

Theme-oriented contests help to focus a modeler's research skills and scare away those who are not willing to put in the time. The deeper the modeler goes into the study of his piece, the more he will probably discover inaccuracies in the out-of-box kit. To compensate, the modeler will purchase individual parts or machine his own to fit the historical profile of the piece. Incorporating research as he goes, many make trips to APG to get first-hand snapshots of the steel beasts grazing on the grass flats behind the Ordnance Museum and along Tank Row.

If this level of research is too much for the average modeler, the show is also aimed at less ambitious pursuits.

Aside from the theme, many World War II era tanks and vehicles were on hand, while Vietnam and Desert Storm era armor always make a strong showing. Yet no matter what era or scale you work in, accuracy is never sacri-

The five medaled categories (Junior, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters) are designed to set apart devotee from student. Many simply displayed their models, opting

Photo by COOKIE SEWELL

"Shattered Myth," a diorama on the lack of invincibility of the T-34/85 tank, by Bruce Teal III, was this year's theme winner.

not to compete.

The seminars were helpful, but seemed to be a little too much for a beginner without a working vocabulary of the hobby.

Second only to the actual models is the vendor section, where all those "hard-to-find"

parts materialize on the tables. Here, vendors flaunt all that is available on today's market, as modelers grab everything from miniature figures to videotapes displaying the interiors of the tanks.

There was even one small regional company which specialized in the production and local hobby shops. casting of World War II Japanese armor and soldiers,

ized in Italian military figures. Both filled a gap that is usually under-represented in the modeling community and is

often difficult to uncover in

while another vendor special-

For those who missed it, the

show is held annually every April. For more information on

AMPS, or for anyone interested in joining the organization, visit the Web site at

www.amps-armor.org.

man and his models

Frank S. Palmisano III

Special contributors

A faux wood finish climbs the basement stairwell and half way up, so does Jack Sink. He greets me with a hearty smile and a handshake and asks me how I am. We exchange a few words, the kind of formalities that strangers would, and then without another wasted minute, he asks, "Do you want to see them?"

Descending into the basement dwelling, a casual observer would not detect anything out of the ordinary. At the last step, we enter a cramped hallway where he shows me a painting of a World War II fighter plane. Inserted in the frame are various photographs of the man who flew this plane, a man Sink knew personally. But he knows many people personally, all with his or her own unique story.

Turning into the basement, a huge display case of model trains graces the wall opposite the stairs, running from ceiling to floor. Inside, trains that date back as far as the 1950s are displayed. Journeying farther in, the cozy quarters open up enough so that two people can stand side by side. Neatly tucked away and out of sight from prying eyes they rest—rows and rows of model planes, trains, and while there are no automobiles, tanks and tractors, stingy for attention, compete for every conceivable shred of available space.

Sink first shows his vintage collection of planes that spans 50 years of modeling.

With a rush of excitement in his voice he explains the history of many example pieces, how a Russian defector flew the MIG-25 into Japan, and how a receiving party, made up mostly of Japanese modeling companies such as Tamiya and Hasegawa were there to greet the pilot and take specifications on the plane before it was returned to Russia through diplomatic channels.

But Sink is most proud of his radar planes, as he himself was involved in radar and retired from the Edgewood Area based Aviation Division of the Army National Guard Bureau and the Maryland Army National Guard as an aviation force development officer.

In the middle of the room, are metal shelves filled with incomplete or unopened model kits. Some of the unopened kits didn't."

go back to his childhood as well. In a small room off to the side there are more planes, and this time, tanks, in fact hundreds of

Finally, Sink shows his tractor collection. He explains his love for tractors came from his uncle who owned a Case farming implement store and sold the real ones. He points to an orange tractor, modestly detailed, the first tractor his uncle ever gave him and the impetus behind his collecting.

Sitting among the hundreds of models, Sink explains that he models because it has a way of connecting him to history.

"I love to learn new and interesting things, things that no one else knows," he says.

His fondness for new information is associated with the building of model armor and planes whose projects were grounded for various reasons. He wonders out loud if the tide of the war may have turned had Hitler, for example, employed one manufacturer's plane design over another.

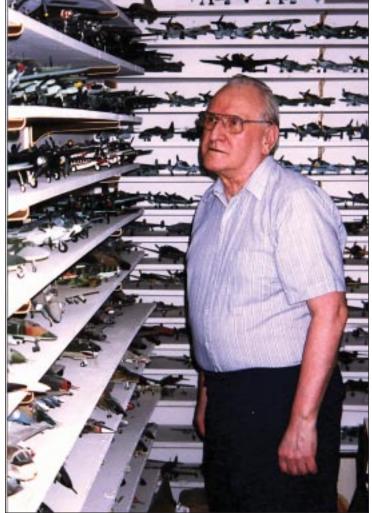
Historical research is a benefit of the modeling process that Sink absorbs with finesse and communicates just as efficiently.

"Modeling is the anticipation of stuff you never thought you'd do," Sink says.

Now more than ever this statement has meaning. After Jack suffered a stroke last year, his recovery has been slow and painful. But this isn't a story of overcoming as much as it is one of persevering. Although modeling can be therapeutic, it is not about the therapy as much as it is about his love for the hobby. He resolves not to let the stroke defeat his passion, and his passion continues strong.

Sink noted his desire to hand over his collection one day to someone who can appreciate it or to a place where it can be appreciated. Only one of his children still models, but hasn't been doing so recently. Jack attributes this to his son's new marriage and is confident that after he settles into it, he'll take modeling back up soon enough.

Modeling is not child's play, for Jack, but he is quick to add, "People should never grow up. It would be a better world if they



Jack Sink stands alongside his collection of vintage fighter plane models. Jack's basement is a museum bordered by wall-to-wall shelves where hundreds of model tanks, planes, trains, and tractors rest; some he builds, oth-

APG employee enjoys spirit of the dance



Gospel Fashion Show.

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson APG News

A personnel clerk with the Northeast Civilian Operation Center has been spreading the gospel through dance at Aberdeen Proving Ground and in the surrounding community for more than nine years.

Known as the Shalom Ministry, Denise Coleman said the dance style, often referred to as liturgical or spiritual dance, dates back centuries and is a creative form of offering praise to God.

"Shalom dancers are worshippers of God," Coleman said.

"Dance ministers to the heart and opens it up so the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can do the rest."

Coleman added that while dancing to glorify God, she finds peace.

"It strengthens me," she said. "It reassures me that I have the ability to overcome obstacles."

Coleman has performed for Coleman expresses her faith through a numerous events for the Aberdeen spiritual dance during the MWR Spring Area Chapel, the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, APG Garrison and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

A member of New Destiny Ministries in Edgewood, Coleman is often called upon to lead children in dance. She said she would like to open a school and maintain a group of dancers who not only enjoy dancing but "serving the Lord from their heart."

"I have danced at weddings, and for Black History and Women's History programs," Coleman said, adding that dance also is appropriate for nursing homes, correctional facilities, in hospitals and at funerals.

"It's for anywhere there are people who need to know that God cares about their hurt and pain and is there for them," she said.

Coleman said she began dancing in college, learning modern dance and modern jazz. Once she turned to gospel and became "saved" she got away from those forms, but held on to the energy that typifies creative

The thought of actualizing the Shalom came to her while at Fort Knox, Ky., when she was stricken with a stomach ailment of unknown

"The doctors couldn't figure what was wrong. It went on for more than a year," Coleman said.

One night, while home alone with a high fever, the pain was particularly

"I decided it was enough. I wasn't going to give up like that. I got out of my bed, stood straight up, and asked the Lord to heal my body," Coleman said. "Right away I felt better and was able to drive myself to the hospital."

Soon after, she said she began expressing her thanks and praise through dance.

"At first, it was something I did alone and only before God," Coleman

Then, her friend and "spiritual mother," Wilhelmina Bess, encouraged her to take her ministry to people. Not long after that, Coleman

danced at a graduation celebration for her daughter at the Aberdeen Area Chapel.

"It was the first time I danced in public," she said. "It was warmly accepted and I was told it was different from anything they had ever seen before."

She added that she was further encouraged by Bible scripture in the books of the Philippians, Galatians and John that refer to the spiritual value of dance.

"It has encouraged me to share my joy, showing how through dance we glorify His name," Coleman said, adding that she decided to use the word Shalom, which means, "The Lord is our Peace, the Lord gives peace."

"I've had so many obstacles," she said. "Through dance I just try to spread the word that with God, there is nothing that you can't do."

Coleman is the wife of retired Staff Sgt. Winford Coleman. She has been with NECPOC for six years.



The Revs. Violet and Thomas Tann, center, owners of V&T fashion collections, pose with models dressed in their spring ensembles during the MWR Spring Gospel Fashion Show. From left, Resi Green, Lynne Smith, Barbara Green, Bessie Smith, Karen Aaron and Linda Robinson.



white lightweight dress, appropriate for the office or dinner from V&T Collections.



Resi Green sports a racy black and Shalom dancer, Denise Coleman of the Northeast Civilian Operations Center, assumes a prayerful position during a spiritual dance she per formed to "Love the Hurt Away," ' by Donald Lawrence and the Tri City



Master. Sgt. James Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, one of three male models in the fashion show, wears a sweater and slacks ensemble while holding a yellow ribbon during a segment of the program dedicated to America's



Bessie Smith models a stylish pantsuit in bold yellow with white accent piping and buttons, one of several versatile casual-to-dressy ensembles in the collection

Fashion

From front page

stunning Sunday, After Five and eveningwear from V&T Collections. Bright, spring-like colors dominated the ensembles, many with matching hats and shoes.

Providing music for the show was DJ June Love of Aberdeen, a former APG soldier who plays regularly for soldiers at the Recreation Center, who provided timely gospel music for the

Robinson used the down time while the models changed clothes to converse with the audience, often soliciting comments about the show. She reminded all that a portion of the show was

dedicated to America's armed forces.

"We are here today to give tribute to our men and women in uniform," Robinson said, adding that the bravery shown during the war in Iraq was a thing of beauty.

"Their beauty is from the inside to the outside - from the heart," Robinson said.

The first half concluded with a parade of spring suits followed by evening outfits. The Tanns joined the models on the floor for

After a short break, in which guests enjoyed complimentary refreshments, the show resumed with fashions from Peruvian Connections.

The bold style included dresses, skirt suits and men swear. There was something for everyone.

"It makes no difference what size you are," Robinson said as the models appeared. "God didn't make us all one size. Whether you're a size two or size 22, it's important that you look and feel

She noted that the models in the show were not professionals,

but "regular people," of various ages and sizes. "Many of whom you know," she added.

The models from the APG area included Sgt. 1st Class Karen Aaron, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; Master Sgt. James Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion; as well as Barbara Green, Resi Green, Linda Robinson, David Stevens, Bessie Smith, Lynne Smith, Steven Smith and Fay Welch.

Future MWR events include a bus trip to the Flea Market Mall in Englishtown, N.J., May 3, and the NASCAR Winston Cup Race at Dover International Speedway, Sept. 21. For more information, call 410-278-3854.

Talent show fosters esprit de corps

Sonya P. Reynolds

The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School's 143rd Ordnance Battalion held a talent show at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, March 21.

Lt. Col. Anthony Grant, commander of the battalion, said the talent show was a friendly competition between the unit companies.

"Tonight there will be a lively battalion talent show competition among the three training companies and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company," Grant said, adding that the event was not just for the sake of competition.

"The purpose of this event is not merely for the sake of competition, but more important, to foster esprit de corps, unit cohesion and also to improve morale by experiencing the various talents of our own personnel."

He encouraged attendees to show respect and appreciation to all talent even though only

three acts will be awarded. "Only the top three places will be awarded," Grant said.

First place winners were presented a trophy and certificate of appreciation; second and third place received a certificate of appreciation.

The first place prize was presented to Pvts. David Knight and Robert Stewart, Company C,

for an original performance of the 'Star Spangled Banner.' In their version, Knight sang the lyrics as Stewart incorporated a rap version to the song.

Coming in second place, Pvt. Alycia Carter, Company B, sang 'Wayfairing Stranger' and the third place winner, Pvt. Andre Rhodes, Company A, sang 'Resurrection of a Dawn.'

"Let us not diminish the talents of all other deserving performers," Grant said.

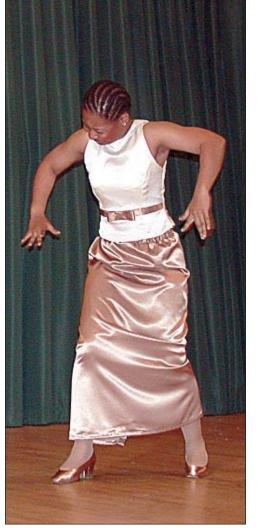
OMMS judges included Command Sgt. Maj. Neslie A. Etheridge, 143rd Ordnance Battalion; Ethel Pierce, secretary; Maj. LoeAnne Maddox, executive officer, 143rd Ordnance Battalion and Chris Akins, chief instructor, Professional Development Division, Wheeled Track Recovery Department.

"Each judge will take into account three categories of each performance: originality, artistic ability and execution," Grant said.

Seventeen contestants participated in the event and performed before an audience of more than 400 soldiers and friends.

A friendly competition, soldiers stood and cheered for all contestants in true esprit de

Their behavior validated the type of camaraderie Grant referred to in his opening re-



1st Lt. Victoria Garner performs a praise dance to Donnie McCurkin's song 'Stand' at the U.S Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, 143rd Ordnance Battalion Talent Show,



(Left or right) Pvts. David Knight and Robert Stewart, Company C, perform an original version of the 'Star Spangled Banner,' incorporated with rap, at the U.S Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, 143rd Ordnance Battalion Talent Show, earning them first place.